

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 10232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG ILO SHUM
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ILO

SUMMARY: VISITING IO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE DALLEY AND DIRECTOR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED ILO AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FOR 45 MINUTES APRIL 5. SESSION DEMONSTRATED EGYPT WILLING BE HELPFUL ON BOTH ISSUES BUT UNLIKELY GET OUT FRONT. SUPPORT WILL BE LOW KEYED AND SELECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, DALLEY SAID USG ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. POINTED PARTICULARLY TO COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN WESTERN NATIONS AND AFRICANS WHICH LED TO ACTION UNDER COMMISSION'S 1503 PROCEDURES, EVIDENCING A NEW WILLINGNESS ADDRESS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES SUCH AS DEROGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA. NOTED, HOWEVER, USG DISAPPOINTED WITH LACK OF SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN COMMISSION'S PROCEDURES THROUGH CREATION OF A COORDINATING MECHANISM SUCH AS A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND WITH REJECTION JORDANIAN PROPOSAL
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HOLD COMMISSION MEETINGS TWICE A YEAR.
2. MOUSSA RESTATED EGYPT'S BASIC OPPOSITION TO DESIGNATION OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. SAID THIS DUE NOT ONLY TO FACT THAT COMMISSIONER WOULD BE SUBJECT TO HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ZIONIST LOBBIES, BUT BECAUSE OF INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS IN PROPOSAL. ACCORDING MOUSSA, AFRICANS, ASIANS AND EAST EUROPEANS

WOULD SO CIRCUMSCRIBE ACTIVITIES OF HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT POSITION WOULD BE MEANINGLESS. THIS, HE OBSERVED, CONTRADICTS OVERALL U.S. GOAL OF MAKING ALL UN POSITIONS MEANINGFUL, ABOLISHING THOSE WITHOUT CONTENT.

3. DALLEY ACCEPTED OBSERVATION; NOTED USG PROBABLY HAD ALREADY GONE TOO FAR IN ACCEPTING COMPROMISE LANGUAGE AT LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEAKENING PROPOSED COMMISSIONER'S ROLE IN EFFORT GET POSITION ESTABLISHED. HE OPINED WE WERE MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THAT POSITION WAS NEEDED, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT INSIST ON ANY PARTICULAR TITLE. USG POSITION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING PROPOSALS TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE POSITION. HE ASKED MOUSSA PROPOSAL'S CHANCES OF PASSING; REPLY WAS THAT EGYPT, AND VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER G-77 STATES, WOULD OPPOSE AUTOMATICALLY, WITHOUT WAIT. HE OBSERVED THAT U.S. HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING CREATE POST FOR PAST 15 YEARS AND REACHED, IN HIS VIEW, HIGH POINT AT LAST SESSION. NOBODY, HE CLAIMED, IS CONVINCED OF POST'S EFFICACY AND HE ADVISED USG DROP SUBJECT. MOUSSA SHOWED MORE GIVE ON CONCEPT OF INDIVIDUAL AND/OR BUREAU BEING TASKED WITH COORDINATING MANY DIVERSE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES OF UN FAMILY.

4. ON COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION OF "POLITICAL ITEMS" SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH AFRICA AND CHILE, MOUSSA ARGUED USG SHOULD EXPECT THEM TO COME UP REGULARLY. CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SHOULD BE PLEASED THAT THEY DO. WITHOUT POLITICAL CONTENT, WORLD WOULD PAY SCANT ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, NOR WOULD MANY BOTHER ATTENDING MEETINGS. DALLEY POINTED OUT USG DOES NOT OPPOSE CONSIDERATION HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN THESE COUNTRIES BUT REGRETS THEIR CONTINUAL DOMINATION COMMISSION CON- FERATIONS TO EX- CLUSION OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS SUBJECTS OF AT LEAST EQUAL CONCERN. ALL WE ARE SEEKING, HE CONCLUDED, IS EVEN- HANDED TREATMENT AND IT WAS TO THIS END WE SOUGHT MOVE- MENT IN THE JUST COMPLETED SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO BRING CONSIDERATION OF THESE MATTERS UNDER THE COMMISSION'S REGULAR PROCEDURES AND WELCOMED THE COMMISSION'S DECISION TO TAKE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS UGANDA. WE SUPPORTED THE JORDANIAN PROPOSAL FOR TWO SESSIONS PER YEAR SO THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS IN ALL COUNTRIES ON ITS AGENDA. THE COMMISSION MUST DEMON- STRATE TO WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THAT IT HAS ABILITY TO TAKE UP ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN A TIMELY FASHION.

5. ILO. TURNING TO ILO MATTERS, DALLEY NOTED THAT U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE OUR WITHDRAWAL. HE POINTED TO PROPOSED STRUCTURAL CHANGES (WITHOUT ENDORSING ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL) AND APPARENT GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF INCREASED DUE PROCESS AS AS HOPEFUL SIGNS. NOTED ADMINISTRATION LOOKING FOR MEASURABLE PROGRESS WHICH WILL ALLOW U.S. RETURN TO ORGANIZATION.

6. MOUSSA REPLIED WITH USUAL DIATRIBE ON NEGOTIATING TACTICS OF FORMER U.S. REP TO ILO HOROWITZ WHO, HE SAID, THOROUGHLY ALIENATED EGYPTIANS. UNFORTUNATELY, SITUATION NOW IS MORE DIFFICULT. WITHOUT U.S. REP IN ILO THERE IS NO ONE TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS. U.S. "MUST COME
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BACK" TO EFFECT CHANGES IT DESIRES. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED WHETHER USG WILLING COMPROMISE ON ARTICLE 17 AND WAS RELIEVED TO RECEIVE AFFIRMATIVE (IF NON-SPECIFIC) ANSWER. MOUSSA NOTED KEY TO SUCCESS WILL BE GIVE AND TAKE IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND USG SHOULD TRY TO ACHIEVE WHAT IS ATTAINABLE. PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION HAD REFUSED TO COMPROMISE. MOUSSA NOTED EGYPT CAN NOT GO BEYOND

LIMITS ESTABLISHED BY G-77 ON STRUCTURE AND CONCLUDED
PROGRESS WILL REQUIRE QUIET WORK AND PASSAGE OF TIME--
THERE WILL BE NO BREAK-THROUGH BEFORE NEXT CONFERENCE.

7. MOUSSA PUSHED HARD ON CHANGES REQUIRED WHICH WOULD
PERMIT PRESIDENT CARTER TO REVERSE DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL.
DALLEY REPEATED THAT, IN GENERAL TERMS, THIS SHOULD BE
MEASURABLE PROGRESS ON DUE PROCESS AND DEMONSTRATED
EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN TREATING EXPERT'S REPORTS. NOTED
HE UNABLE BE MORE SPECIFIC SINCE NO DECISION HAS BEEN
REACHED BY CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE AND ISSUE NOT YET
RESOLVED WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT. MOUSSA SAID EGYPT
READY TO ASSIST WHERE POSSIBLE, BUT SUGGESTED IT WOULD
NOT BE EASY TO OBTAIN ALL CHANGES DESIRED, PARTICULARLY
THOSE ON STRUCTURE. DIFFICULTY LAST YEAR, HE CONCLUDED,
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WAS USG MADE "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT PROPOSAL" WITH NO
ATTEMPT AT NEGOTIATION.

8. ECOSOC. AS MEETING BROKE UP, DALLEY ASKED MOUSSA
WHETHER UNESCO PRECEDENT MIGHT HOLD IN UPCOMING ECOSOC,
WITH NO REFERENCE TO RES 3379 IN ULTIMATE RESOLUTION.
MOUSSA THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE LANGUAGE SUCH AS
"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS . . ."
MIGHT PROVE ACCEPTABLE, BUT DOUBTED MEMBERS WOULD GO
FURTHER. SAID THIS WAS EASY ISSUE FOR EGYPT: GOE IS
NOT REPRESENTED ON ECOSOC. NEVERTHELESS, EGYPT WILL
ATTEMPT TO BE HELPFUL BUT USG SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
FACT THAT THERE NO PROVISION FOR REPEALING UN RESOLUTION.
IN MOUSSA'S VIEW, BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO IGNORE 3379
AND CARRY ON. EILTS

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